PAUNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

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OSWER/OERR State, Tribal, and Site Identification Center Washington, DC 20460

DIAMOND HEAD OIL REFINERY DIV. Kearny, New Jersey

The Diamond Head Oil Refinery Div. (Diamond Head) site is located at 1401 Harrison Ave. in Kearny, Hudson County, New Jersey. Currently, the site is inactive and consists of approximately 15 acres of undeveloped land that is bordered by Harrison Avenue to the north, entrance ramp M of Interstate 280 (I-280) to the east, I-280 to the south, and Campbell Distribution Foundry to the west. The site is comprised of wetland areas and drainage ditches, a small wetland/pond, a vegetated landfill area along the western border of the site, and the remnants of the former Diamond Head Oil Refinery on the eastern portion of the site. The abandoned refinery portion of the site contains various construction debris, including foundations of the former on-site building and two former aboveground storage tanks. The site is currently owned by the Hudson Meadows Urban Development Corporation (HMURDC).

The site was in operation from February 1, 1946 to early 1979. The facility operated under several company names including PSC Resources, Inc., Ag-Met Oil Service, Inc., and Newtown Refining Corporation. All of these companies were owned by Mr. Robert Mahler. In January 1985, Newtown Refining Corporation sold the property to Mimi Urban Development Corporation, which changed its name to Hudson Meadows Urban Development Corporation.

During facility operations, two aboveground storage tanks and possibly underground pits were used to store oily wastes. These wastes were intermittently discharged directly to adjacent properties, including the wetland area to the south of the site, creating an oil lake. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) acquired the property south of the site on March 6, 1968. In 1977, NJDOT began construction of I-280 and was reported to have removed 9 million gallons of oil-contaminated water and 5 to 6 million cubic yards of oily sludge from the lake. The material was reportedly transported to Newtown Refining Corporation's facility on Long Island to be recycled; however, there are no reports stating that this recycling process occurred. It is also reported that during the construction of I-280, an underground lake of oil-contaminated ground water was found extending from the eastern limits of the NJDOT right-of- way to Frank's Creek on the west. It is reported that, prior to abandoning the site, Diamond Head cleaned out the two aboveground tanks; however, there is no known documentation of this activity. From the close of operations in 1979 until 1982, the abandoned site was not completely fenced. During this time, it was reported that dumping of waste oils and other debris took place on site. Refinement International Co. hired Eastern Chemical Co. to clean up the site in May 1982. In order to do so, the material in the tanks was analyzed and found to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at a concentration of 206 parts per million (ppm). Subsequent analyses revealed the presence of PCBs at concentrations over 3,100 ppm. Approximately 7,500 gallons of material were pumped out of the tanks and disposed off site by a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) by Resource Technology Service. Environmental Transport also removed 27 tons of contaminated soil in May 1982.

Background information indicates that previous investigations have been conducted at the Diamond Head Oil Refinery Div. site. These investigations include a sampling event conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), an Environmental Site Characterization conducted by Killam Associates, and a Site Inspection conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II Field Investigation Team (FIT). During these investigations, ground water, surface water/sediment, surface/subsurface soil, liquid waste and solid waste samples were collected. Analytical results of these samples indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, PCBs, and metals.

In December 1999 EPA conducted an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) at the Diamond Head Oil Refinery Div. site. During the ESI, EPA collected surface/subsurface soil and ground water samples from 20 borings advanced throughout the site. EPA also collected sediment samples from the on-site wetland/pond area as well as from the wetland area extending along the southern perimeter of the site. Analytical results indicated the presence of VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides, PCBs, and metals. An observed release to surface water is documented by chemical analyses of sediment samples collected from wetlands along the southern and western boundaries of the site. Level II

concentration of lead and zinc are documented to 0.19 mile of wetland frontage located along the southern perimeter of the site.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]